



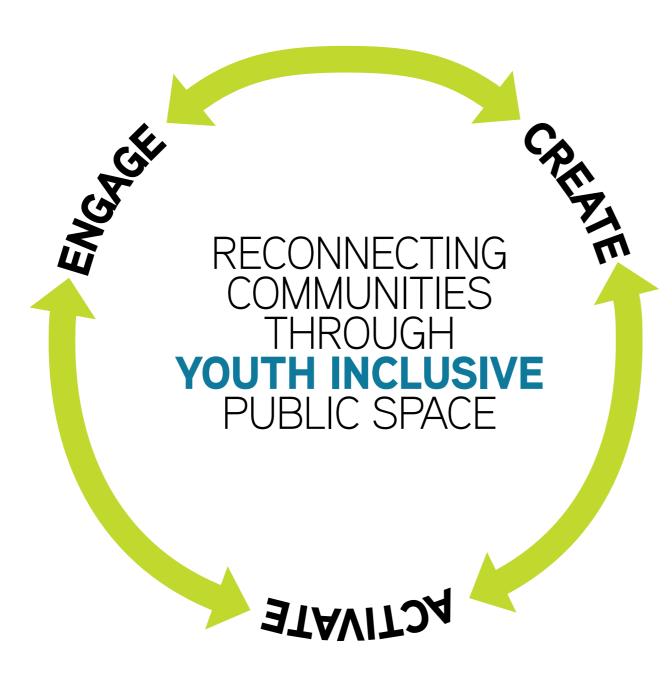
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INTRODUCTION

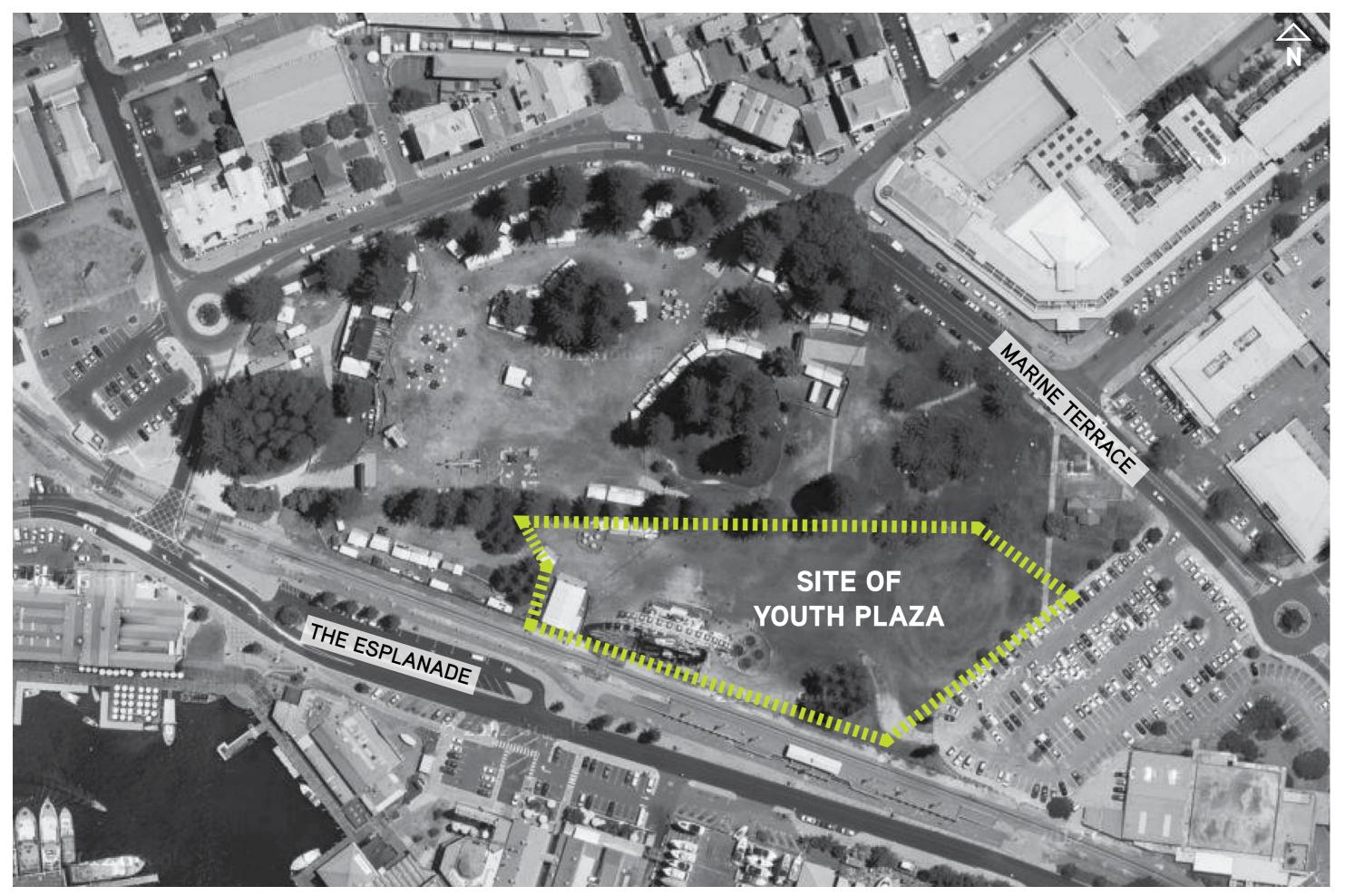


THE ESPLANADE YOUTH PLAZA

The Esplanade Youth Plaza is to be a world-class, multi- purpose, skateable youth plaza that aims to complement the existing uses and facilities at the Esplanade Reserve. This iconic facility is to become the central community at the heart of the Fremantle Community, a draw card for the local community and beyond.

The following report outlines the key milestones and processes involved in the development of the design of the Esplanade Youth Plaza including the site assessment, community consultation and design principles.



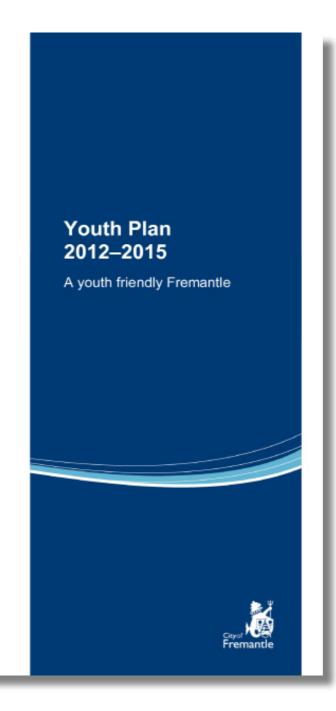


ESPLANADE RESERVE: SITE OF YOUTH PLAZA

BASELINE INFORMATION



"OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND MORE YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES"



"SKATING FACILITIES INTEGRATED INTO A MULTI- USE COMMUNITY SPACE, THE ESPLANADE COULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED INTO A YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACE"

UNDERSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE

The City of Fremantle is a major regional centre in Western Australia, providing services, educational institutions and commercial opportunities for locals and visitors alike. In particular, there is a strong demographic of young people between the ages of 15-25, approximately 15% of the total population as identified in the 2011 ABS Census that reside in the Local Government Area. There is also a significant amount of youth visiting the City, approximately 10,000, for education and employment and also a substantial amount of visiting tourists and backpackers.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

As such, the provision of facilities for young people has become a high priority for the City of Fremantle, as identified in the City of Fremantle's Strategic Plan of 2010- 2015 and subsequent City of Fremantle Youth Plan 2012-2015.

In conjunction with this in 2009, the City of Fremantle adopted a Master Plan for the Esplanade Reserve in Fremantle, based on the findings of the aforementioned Strategies, included the development of skateable infrastructure as part of the long-term plans to upgrade the Reserve's Landscape and Infrastructure.

The vision for the Esplanade Youth Plaza was identified as:

- An inviting, inclusive, flexible, youth focused facility in the centre of Fremantle
- A facility with opportunities for families, whilst also catering for teens and young adults
- The inclusion of the first parkour elements in Western Australia
- The amplification of Fremantle's strong skating culture, cementing the City's reputation as a key destination for the skateboarding community, both locally and internationally

The plaza is the first stage of the Masterplan to be implemented and the plaza is seen as a key driver in the regeneration of the Esplanade Park. In December of 2012, CONVIC were engaged to Design and Construct the Esplanade Youth Plaza, including undertaking a comprehensive Consultation and Community Engagement Program.



THE HEART OF THE CITY

With the Esplanade Reserve earmarked as the site of the Youth Plaza, it presents an exciting opportunity to incorporate the already existing cultural attributes of the Reserve into the design of the facility. The Esplanade Park is already at the Heart of the Fremantle Community due to:

THE CENTRAL LOCATION OF THE RESERVE

The Esplanade Reserve acts as a gateway between the commercial and retail district of the Fremantle City Centre, and the Harbour and Restaurant Precinct.

THE ACTIVATION OF THE RESERVE THROUGH EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Throughout the year, a vast number of events and festivals are held at the Reserve, including Australia Day Celebrations, Music Events such as the Save the Kimberly Concert 2013 and the annual Fremantle Chilli Festival.

THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESERVE

The site also played a key role in the history of the development of the City of Fremantle, with the heritage freight line once running through the centre of the Reserve.

THE SOCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE

Whether for formal recreational opportunities, such as utilising the children's playground, or simply to meet friends and relax, the Reserve plays an integral part in the social life of the Fremantle Community.

With such an embodied cultural foundation, rather than to try to overwrite a new functional into the Esplanade Youth Facility, the facility aims to translate these factors and represent them in a contemporary and modern design that celebrates the Fremantle Community.



HISTORIC CONTEXT



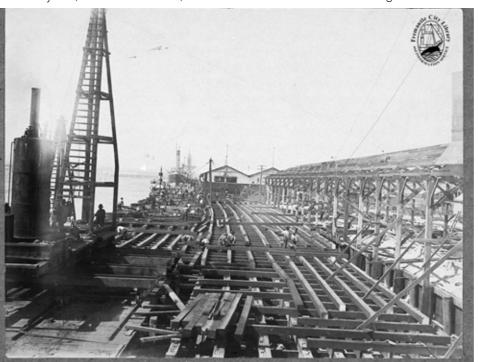
Since the City of Fremantle first came into being, the community has had a strong culture of working hard. From the Whadjuk Noongar People for which Fremantle has is a place of ceremonies, significant cultural practices and trading, to settlement which saw the boom of industry, manufacturing and maritime trade, Fremantle has had a rich heritage of investing time and effort to strengthen and develop the community. This is evident in the number of historical and unique buildings scattered through the City Centre.

In particular, due to the close proximity to the water, Fremantle has had a colourful and extensive maritime history, including the development of the Harbour which during World War II became the largest submarine base in the Southern Hemisphere. The terminus of the Eastern Railway also meant that freight transport resulted in a number of chief industries being developed including shipbuilding, soap-boiling, saw-milling, smelting, iron-founding, furniture-making, flour-milling, brewing and tanning.

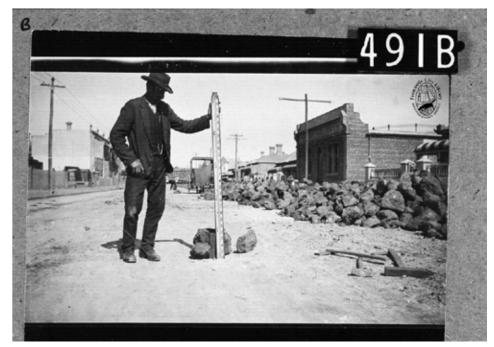
Images sourced from the Fremantle Library Local Historic Photograph Collection: http://www.Fremantle.wa.gov.au/library/Local_history_collection/Local_history_photographic_collection



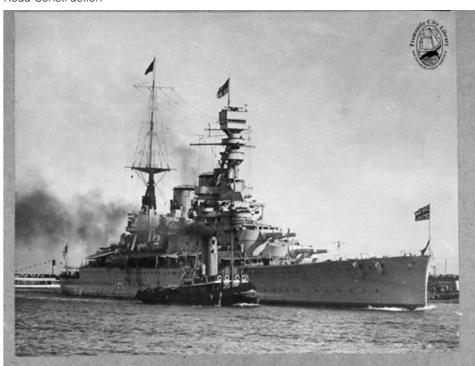
The Rail yards, Road Construction, the Docks and Submarine Dock during World War II.



The Docks



Road Construction



Submarine Dock during World War II.

















SKATE CONTEXT



If the City of Fremantle, indicated by its rich industrial heritage has knows how to work hard, the City equally knows how to play hard, with a strong and historic skating culture. In particular, the old Woolstores Building in Cantonment Street has provided one of the most iconic street skating spots, being a 'must visit' location for both local skaters and professionals from Australia and the World. The Woolstores Ledge is the longest skateboarding ledge in the Southern Hemisphere, and has seen over 20 years of action resulting in the development of new tricks and skill progression. As written on the SbA website (Skateboarding Australia):

"If you are a street skater from Western Australia, if you added up all the hours spent there, chances are you will have literally spent years at Woolies. It is an isle of progression, it is a gallery, it is a school, it is a metal-capped portal to happiness. If you haven't skated it yet, get with the program" Morgan Campbell

The City of Fremantle currently has 3 local scaled skate parks, with an emphasis on flow terrain such as banks, transition and hips; the Beach St Skate park, Montreal St Skate park and the Gordon Dedman Reserve Skate park.



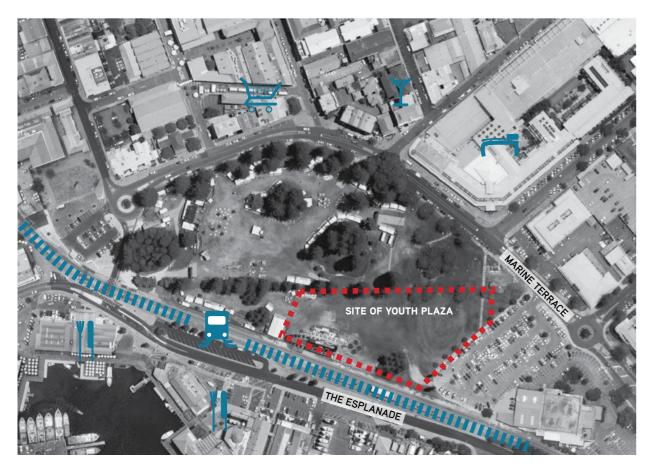
Gordon Dedman Reserve Skate park



Montreal St Skate park



Beach Road Skate park



PERIPHERAL FUNCTION

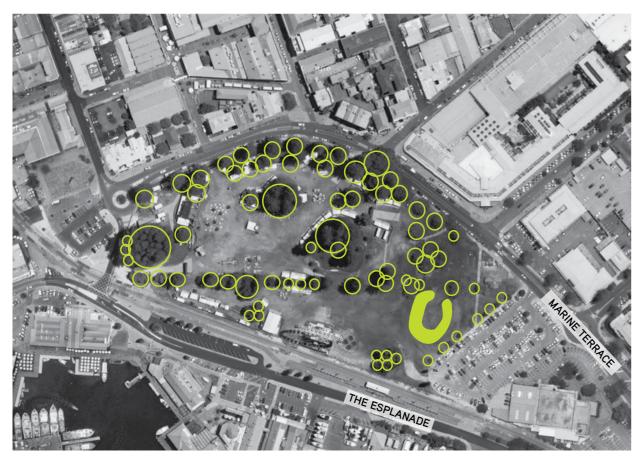
An essential component of the site assessment process is understanding the broader context in which the site sits. The central location of the Esplanade Reserve, ensures that there are a number of existing activities that occur around edge of the Reserve. To the North, there are a number of shop fronts, restaurants and bars that act as gateways to the Fremantle City Centre. The iconic Esplanade Hotel is just across Marine Terrace.

The Esplanade Reserve to the South is bordered by the Fremantle train line and train Station, a key transport link, in particular for the freight industry. Although this creates a physical border between the Reserve and the Esplanade, there is still a strong informal pedestrian thoroughfare that links the Reserve, and the restaurants and eateries located at the water's edge.





Peripheral Function from (L) to (R): The Esplanade Hotel, the Little Creatures Brewery



LANDSCAPE

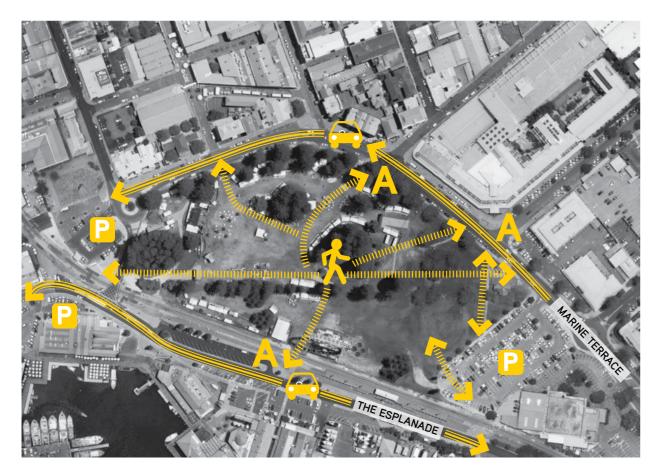
The Esplanade Reserve has a rich and iconic landscape palette, with a considerable number of mature Norfolk Pine St Trees. In particular, the central axis of these trees directly reference the once existing heritage freight train line. These trees also frame the proposed site for the Youth Plaza, and provide a number of informal shade and passive recreation opportunities as well as an iconic visual aesthetic. To the east of the proposed site is also the 'mound' which currently works as a vantage and meeting point for park users. Both features will be explored and amplified in the new Youth Plaza.





Landscape from (L) to (R): Norfolk Pines, the Mound

SITE CONSTRAINTS



ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

The Esplanade Reserve is one of the key public open spaces and recreational reserves for the City of Fremantle. This ensures the Reserve itself contains a hive of activity at all times. There are several key pedestrian nodes through the site, as well as peripheral vehicular movements, access points (A) and car parking. These will all need to be taken into consideration during the development of the Youth Plaza design to ensure existing access and movement networks aren't restricted, and new patterns of movement can be integrated to further improve accessibility into the space.





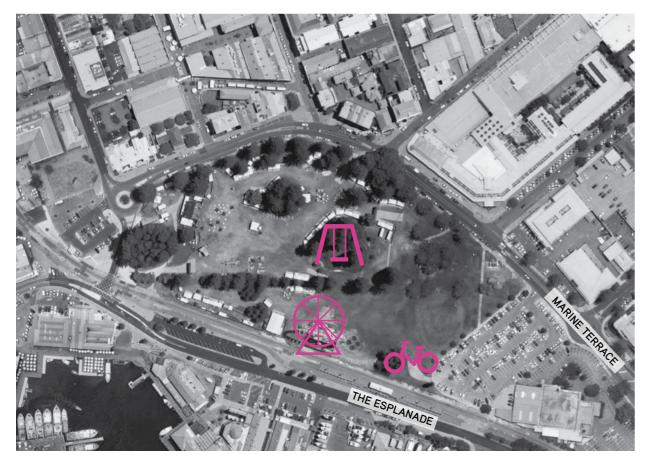
Access from (L) to (R): Gateway into Site, Informal Path



WATER

With the close proximity of the Molfetta Quay and harbour area, the Esplanade Reserve has a close relationship both historically and visually to the water. This has a direct impact on the Reserve during flooding periods, in particular during high tide, as the incoming sea water raises the ground water table (saltwater intrusion). During these peak flooding times, a significant amount of water is deposited in the Esplanade Reserve, therefore the design of the Youth Plaza will have to consider drainage, and that construction work will not be able to excavate due to the high water table.

SITE CONSTRAINTS



INTERNAL FUNCTION

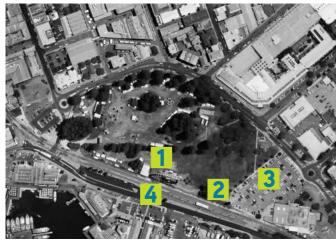
Although the major use of the Park is through informal recreational opportunities, utilising the shade trees and generous lawn areas, there are a number of built structure on and around the site. To the South is the Dismantle Bike Workshop, an innovative and inspiring community resource, to the West are carnival amusements, including the Sky Wheel, and to the North, the existing children's playground including the climbing net. With such activity on the border of the proposed site, the Youth Plaza presents the opportunity to encompass these functions, and provide the vital link between all three to create a true community hub and destination.





Internal Function from (L) to (R): Dismantle Workshop, the Sky Wheel

PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



ocation Plan



Entering the Site, looking North



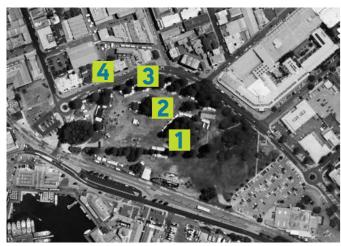
Adjacent to the Mound, looking North West



Carpark adjacent to the site, looking East



Site Access, looking North



Location Plan



The Site, looking South



The Site, looking South



Entering the Esplanade Reserve, looking South



Marine Terrace, looking East

PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS









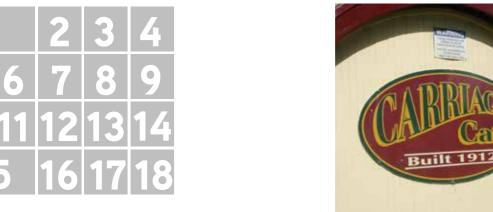




























PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

		2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
1	5	16	17	18

- 1. Heritage Building
- 2. Eastern Car Park
- 3. Dismantle Shipping Containers
 4. Avenue of Norfolk Pines
- 5. Memorial
- 6. Memorial
- 7. Vernacular Material Palette
- 8. Train line Crossing Point
 9. Boundary Fence with Iron Oxide Staining
 10. Carriage Cafe
 11. Clumps of Semi Mature Norfolk Pines

- 12. Nearby Esplanade Boardwalk
- 13. Fremantle Train line
- 14. Sleeper Seats outside Maritime Museum
 15. The Esplanade Hotel Signage
- 16. Informal Access Path
- 17. Existing CCTV
- 18. Natural Shade outside Dismantle



THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation process is an integral component of the development of youth precinct and Skate park facilities. In order to ensure the success and longevity of these key community assets it is integral to connect with the future users of the space. Through a combination of user group workshops, community meetings, surveys and forums the consultation process aims to empower youth and their communities to take ownership and pride in their public spaces.

There are 2 key stages in the consultation process to ensure the client, community, users and stakeholders are all engaged. This will ensure the evolution of a highly resolved strategy or design outcome that is unique to the community it is being developed for. The 2 stages are:

Stage

Information gathering of ideas, issues, requirements etc. To provide direction for the face to face community workshops and understand the demographic and demand in the community via the analysis of data

Stage 2:

Community workshops that utilise the key outcomes of the information gathering stage and collaboratively work with the community to further explore themes and develop spatially located design responses.

By utilising these two methods of consultation, this ensures the evolution of a highly resolved and informed design outcome that is unique to the City of Fremantle Community. The consultation process also encourages the local community to take an active role in the future design development of the facility, and upon completion become guardians of the space and activate the Esplanade Youth Plaza.



THE CONSULTATION APPROACH

For the City of Fremantle, various methods have been used in both stages of the consultation process, to gather as much information about the community and its user needs and requirements

Stage 1 involved:

- Internal Council Liaison with relevant Departments
- Stakeholder Liaison and analysis of existing strategies and masterplans
- Development of a Community Survey with Council that was made available online and in hard copy format
- Linked to the Community Survey was the creation of a register for all interested community members who wished to participate in future workshops

Stage 2 involved

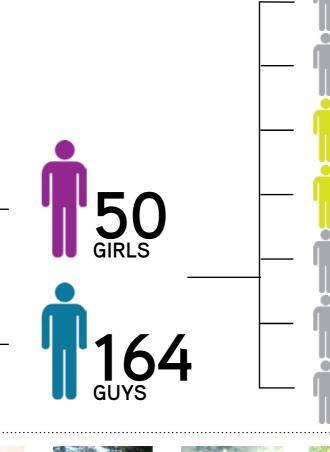
 Community Workshop with selected community members based on the feedback received from the Community Survey. This included a mixed range of users, parents and community members, both female and male, and from a number of different suburbs within the City of Fremantle. The workshop involved a presentation and interactive brainstorming session, which will be outlined on the following pages

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The following pages outline the key results from the City of Fremantle Community Survey, undertaken as part of the consultation phase for the City of Fremantle Youth Plaza

The Community Profile page highlights the key results from broad questions relating to participation, skills levels, current facility usage, transport and duration of participation.

WHO ARE WE?



AGED 0-11

50 **AGED 12-18**

53 AGED 19-24

53 AGED 25-34

36 **AGED 35-44**

27 AGED 45-54

AGED 54+

FREMANTLE ESPLANADE YOUTH PLAZA **ONLINE SURVEY**

WHERE DO **WE LIVE?**

OUTSIDE THE CITY OF FREMANTLE

WHAT DO WE DO?



SKATERS



28% **RESIDENTS** OUTSIDE **FREMANTLE**



25% RESIDENTS **FROM FREMANTLE**



19% PARK VISITORS



18% **PARKOUR**



13% **PARENT GUARDIAN**



SPECTATOR



LOCAL **BUSINESS**



7%



SCOOTER



2% **INLINE**

WHERE DO WE SPEND **OUR FREE TIME?**



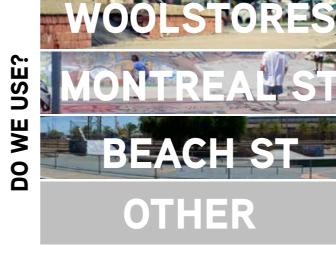


CAFES RESTAURANTS BARS PARKOUR OTHER



CINEMA





3%

WEEKDAY WHEN, HOW LONG? 12:00

PLAZA FEEDBACK

The Plaza Feedback highlights the main results from the Survey relating to the future Esplanade Youth Plaza, in particular the preferred styles of facility, amenities, functionality and capacity to hold community based events.

COMPETITIONS

COMPETITIONS

GOOD PLACE FOR?

4

TAKING PART IN

TOP 5 IMPORTANT



WORKSHOPS

80%

HOLIDAY EVENTS

DEMONSTRATIONS

VANS PRO SKATE TEAM DEMO

SAINT LOUIS, MO

PRO SKATE DEMO

6:30 PM Sylvan Springs Skutspark 300 Halony Rd. (314) 615-4366

86%



38%

COMMUNITY EVENTS

74%

COACHING

54%



15%

SPECIAL EVENTS

61%



3%

OTHER

GIGS

FESTIVALS

OUTDOOR CINEMA

16%

OTHER

4%

PARKOUR

MUSIC

BOWL



2 LIGHTING



FREMANTLE ESPLANADE YOUTH PLAZA

ONLINE SURVEY



DRINK

FOUNTAIN







.....

AMENITIES OTHER





SPACE





















PETITIONS





64%







OTHER

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE **EVENTS CINEMA**

YOUTH SERVICES **FESTIVALS**

A PLAZA FOR ALL

PERFORMANCE TOILETS BASKETBALL

SHARED USE SKATE + PUBLIC PLAZA LIGHTS

PARKOUR STREET ART SAFE WI-FI/MULTIMEDIA

WORLD CLASS QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

FEATURES LEDGES/HUBBAS

2 VARIETY/ UNIQUE/CREATIVE

3 **RAILS**

4 **BOWLS**

5 SHADE/SHELTER

PREPARED BY CONVIC FOR THE CITY OF FREMANTLE

27

WHAT DO YOU WANT THE FREMANTLE YOUTH PLAZA TO BE?

With over 210 respondents for the Community Survey demonstrating the interest and enthusiasm in the development of the Esplanade Youth Plaza, the next phase in the consultation process was connecting face to face with the Fremantle Community through two Community Workshops. These workshops were split into two sessions to meet demand, taking place on Friday the 18th and Saturday the 19th of February 2013, in the Council Building in Fremantle.

The participants at both sessions, represented the diverse community of Fremantle, and highlighted the vast range of people who are both interested in the project and may also be future users of the space. Attendees included skateboarders, parkour enthusiasts, BMX riders, local business representatives, residents, parents/guardians, Councillors, youth workers, artists, film makers, the Mayor and representatives of FICRA (Fremantle Inner Residents Association). Each session had approximately 50 attendees.

The workshops centred around the question, 'What do you want the Fremantle Youth Plaza to be?' With the aim of participants developing creative design ideas and solutions for the Esplanade Youth Plaza. The session began with a presentation outlining the project brief, and processes that have so far been completed in the development of the Youth Plaza. This included running through a site analysis of the Esplanade Reserve outlining opportunities and constraints, key results of the Community Survey and a range of potential ideas for the space to stimulate thoughts and discussions.

Participants were then split into groups of 10, and were asked to work together and create the new Esplanade Youth Plaza, within a site model of the Esplanade Park. The results saw an extensive range of creative and innovative responses, whether written, drawn or created out of plasticine or any other materials that came to hand (plastic cups and plates!). Each group then presented their site plan to the room, before everyone had the opportunity to vote for their favourite idea.



CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

KEY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Following the collation of the group presentations and voting panels from both consultation workshops, the key outcomes from the Youth Esplanade workshops are outlined thematically below. These themes have been used to develop the design objectives, which can be found in Section 4 of this report, and will provide the foundation for the development of the design for the Esplanade Youth Plaza.

UNIQUE, INTERESTING STREET ELEMENTS

Skaters/BMX/scooter riders in both sessions acknowledged both the aesthetical and technical aspects of street style elements, and saw the opportunity for the Youth Plaza to contain a variety of sculptural and unique rideable pieces. This also include the development of a WOOLSTORES REPLICA LEDGE, to celebrate and elevate this iconic and historical skate feature into the context of the broader community.

AN ENCLOSED BOWL

With the closest enclosed bowls approx 20km away at Subiaco and Victoria Park, skaters in the region are looking to develop a new local bowl that challenges intermediate to advanced users, to rival the skate bowls of the eastern seaboard.

SUPPORTING AMENITIES

To ensure the comfort of users, and provide a complete facility for the community, items such as a shade/refuge shelter, drinking fountain, bins, seating and viewing areas were all raised as key considerations for the design. In particular, lights was an important addition to ensure the extended activation of the facility

PARKOUR/OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

With a strong local Parkour community, participants were naturally enthused about the prospect of incorporating Parkour Style training elements into the Youth Plaza. These could be low walls, boulders or other climbing structures. Basketball and soccer goals were also mentioned for the facility to cater for a number of users.

ALL INCLUSIVE FACILITY

With a rich action sports community, participants saw the need for the facility to cater for beginner, intermediate and advanced users, and appeal to a variety of rider styles. An all inclusive facility is also ensuring the plaza is safe and activated by a variety of events, and presents a range of opportunities, including performance areas, projector screen/community cinema events, skills sharing (dismantle workshop) and street art.

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE

Using the surrounding mature Norfolk Pines as a starting point, participants discussed how more softscape elements could be utilised in the design including incorporating more trees into the design, using a range of skateable materials and green walls.

WORLD CLASS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Utilising a combination of unique skateable elements, high quality design and construction, participants saw the Esplanade Youth Plaza as a flagship facility, that could put Fremantle on the regional, national and international skating/BMX/scooter and youth precinct map.



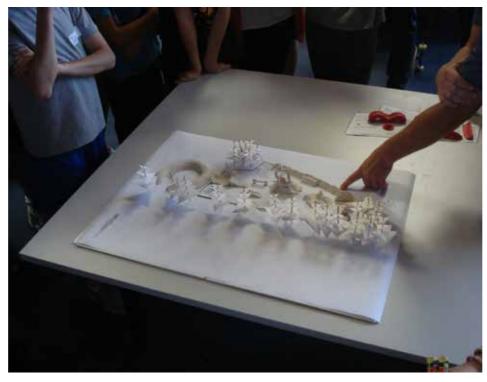
SESSION 1

skate trail connection, PT HUB bbq lockeable maintenance hospelidos maritime objects viewing platform tree (middle) medichair accessible INTERESTING - UNIQUE II Woolstone replica green wall to help with noise streat art plinks to rail Shalde Streen (projector) street dr Stategood objects, seats drinking fountains raised stage differents fabilities/tanain
using state to split function central mss Bonnets
chote mentors

Chote mentors pedestrian routes youth outreach @ plaza Camura mount on basic/standard dements ledge Khilled water dispenser mound miniramp half pipe half ppe drop in bridget-spat of park viewing area mound-bowl snake run cuntre gazebo lampitheatre craftle world dass pool cuping





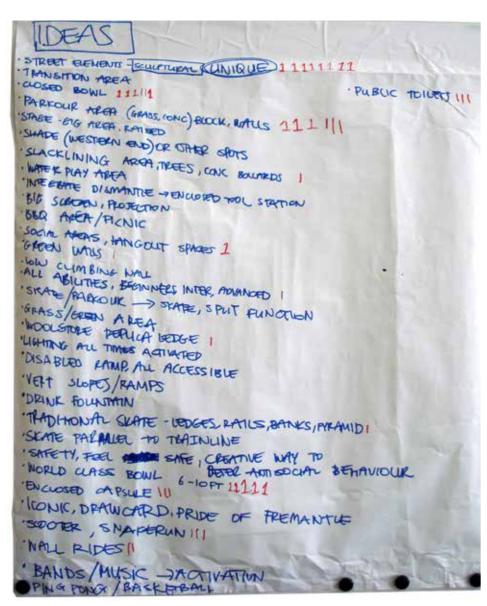




TOP IDEAS

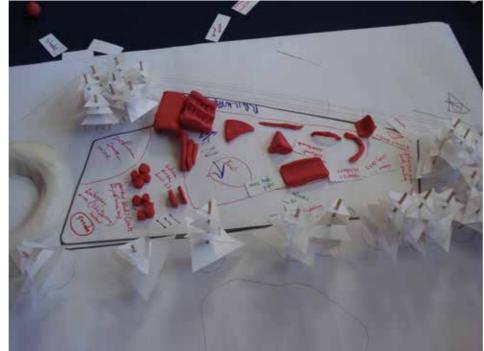
- 1. Skateable objects, seats
- 2. Interesting and Unique
- 3. Woolstore Replica
- 4. Skate Mentors, Shade, Projector Screen, Drink Fountain, Drop in Bridge, Green wall

SESSION 2



TOP IDEAS

- 1. Sculptural, Unique Street Elements
- 2. Parkour Area
- 3. Closed Bowl
- 4. World Class Bowl 6ft-10ft
- 5. Public Toilets









CONCLUDING DESIGN PRINCIPLES

DESIGN OBJECTIVES

Using the key outcomes from the two consultation workshops, the findings of the site analysis and reviews of existing strategic documents including the Esplanade Conservation Plan 2010, the Design Principles for the Esplanade Youth Plaza were used to drive the concept design of the project:

THE ESPLANADE YOUTH PLAZA: THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

With the Esplanade Reserve at the heart of the City, the Youth Plaza will reactivate the young people of Fremantle and become the heart of the community. Embodying principles of social sustainability, the facility offers opportunities for all participants. It is a central community hub for events, competitions and social opportunities.

CELEBRATING 'WORK HARD, PLAY HARD'; THE CULTURE OF FREMANTLE

The Youth Plaza is a manifestation of the very best of the culture of Fremantle. Interpretative layers are interwoven through the space, using a range of materials to tell the story of the rich history of the city, in particular its working past. Complementing this is the strong skating culture within the community, evident in the unique and challenging skateable terrain that pays homage to the Woolstores edge, making the facility a key destination for local users and national and international visitors.

AN ICONIC, CONTEMPORARY WORLD CLASS FACILITY

With such a strong user community, the skateable/rideable terrain of the Youth Plaza is of a world class standard, ensuring the future growth and development of the sport to the highest standard. The Youth Plaza however, is not just an iconic facility due to its functionality and dynamic uses, but also due to its striking aesthetics and contemporary design, positioning the plaza as one of the flagship public space developments in the City of Fremantle.

A CENTRE FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND SKILL SHARING

The diversity of the community, and its recreational needs were brought to the fore, and as such, the Youth Plaza offers not only skate/BMX/scooter, but parkour and other informal recreational opportunities. Together with the Dismantle Bike Hub, the facility is a central source of knowledge and skill sharing for the community through workshops and demonstrations, ensuring skill progression and development.

AN INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE AND MATERIALITY APPROACH

The Youth Plaza draws on the rich palette of the landscape within the Esplanade Reserve, and incorporates elements such as trees, indigenous vegetation and a sympathetic material to ensure the facility complements the reserve, and ensuring natural site drainage is maintained. This allows the facility to manifest as a contemporary youth precinct whilst being responsive and sensitive to the heritage significance of the Esplanade.

CONVIC

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